



# The Church on the Cape Newsletter



January 2021

## Pastor's Letter

Dear family and friends of Church on the Cape, A Hindu saint was approached by a village man who asked him how he can encounter God. The saint sent him back without telling him what to do. Day after day he came back asking the same question, and the saint remained silent. Finally impressed by the man's sincere quest, the saint asked him to come down the river in which he will take a bath. When the man came to the river, the saint grabbed him in his head and put him in the water. The poor man pawed the air to get out of the water. Then the saint let him go and told "come and see me under the tree tomorrow." The next day when the man came the saint asked him why he struggled so much to get out of the water. The man replied, "because I couldn't breathe and wanted to get some air." The saints said, "the very day you yearn for God as much as you fought to get air, you will encounter God."

One of the amazing things about the faith journey is that we never stop growing while we are on this journey. Our faith and relationship with God get deeper and deeper day after day, year after year. As I look back a year ago, I have grown in many ways especially in my knowledge of who God is, what God wants from me, and how I can be faithful in my calling. Because God's infinite and perfect nature cannot be fully comprehended by us humans, we can only understand God with our limited knowledge. That's why as we continue our journey with God, we get to understand God on a deeper and more comprehensive level. As our personality and knowledge grow wiser and maturer each year, we can discover the new images and characteristics of God with whom we build a

renewed relationship. There are a lot more mysteries about God for us to discover. They are the gifts of God and can only be discovered when we deeply yearn for God.

As we begin our journey in 2021 I hope and pray that we will have a sincere yearning for getting to know God better and building our relationship with God on a deeper level throughout the year. God will continue to give us the clues and reveal God's own presence in our life. God yearns for us to come closer to God and understand what God is doing in our midst. And we can follow Magi's example. They did not wait until God knocks at their doors. They diligently searched for the sign of God's revelation and continued their stubborn journey to encounter God's presence in the Newborn King. God's mysteries are known to those who actively search and yearn for the revelation of God.

God has been good to us and blessed us in the year 2020 as we encountered and overcame many challenges. And I believe that God will continue to bless us and our ministries in the year 2021. When we yearn for God who is leading us to God's way, we will discover the mysteries of God individually and collectively. And our journey in the new year will be filled with God's gifts and blessings.

May God's powerful yet gentle presence be known to you throughout the New Year!

In peace,  
Ho-Soon



## JANUARY LECTIONARY READINGS



**Ron Cadieux**  
**December 1, 2020**

The family plans to have a memorial service for Ron in post-pandemic time.

## SPECIAL DATES

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2021*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2021*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 10, 2021*
- Religious Freedom Day, *Jan. 16, 2021*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *Jan. 18, 2021*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2021*
- Inauguration Day, *January 20, 2021*

### January 3:

*2nd Sunday after Christmas Day*

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

### January 10:

*1st Sunday after the Epiphany*

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

### January 17:

*2nd Sunday after the Epiphany*

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

### January 24:

*3rd Sunday after the Epiphany*

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalms 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

### January 31:

*4th Sunday after the Epiphany*

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28



**Janet Crandall moved and has a new address and phone number!**

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## AN ONGOING GOAL

Still searching for a New Year's resolution? None is more worthy than becoming Christ-like. In fact, 19<sup>th</sup>-century evangelist Henry Drummond calls it "the only thing in the whole world worth caring for."

Two modern-day authors offer more insights. Stormie Omartian points out that we're either making progress or backsliding on this goal. "There is no neutral position in the Lord," she writes. "You are either becoming more like Christ every day or you're becoming less like him." And followers of Jesus must keep the goal always in focus. Christ-likeness is our "eventual destination," writes Rick Warren, but the "journey will last a lifetime."

Source: Newsletternewsletter

I was hungry and you  
gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you  
gave me something to drink.

Matthew 25:35, NRSV



## COMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES

("Our mission is to extend a helping hand to our neighbors who face challenges with food, fuel or specific needs emergencies. As a 501c3, non-profit organization, we serve the individuals and families in the towns of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel, Maine.")

On behalf of Mark Jago, Director of Community Outreach Services, I wish to gratefully thank you for your generous donation which will make a difference helping those in need in Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Arundel, Maine.

We thank you for partnering with us to assist our neighbors. Your support is so appreciated, especially during the ongoing pandemic. Your gift will touch the lives of many in our community.

Sincerely yours,  
Phillis Cutler



## SCENES FROM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

### A Special Thanks to...

Jan Stover, Nancy Chamberlin, Wendy & Ted Hagarty, Wendy Emmons, Elaine Triplett, Liz Phillips and Susie Goodwin for their gift of music to enrich the Christmas Eve Service.

Carly & Adam Baracco, Isla & Jackson Phillips, Michael Schoener, Olivia & Henry Spencer, Jayne & Kyle Emmons, Jenny & Jimmy Spinney and Tyler Dumas for retelling the story of Jesus' birth.

Susan Baracco and Mike Kelly for their time and efforts to make the virtual worship service beautiful and meaningful.

Jean Moulton for her effort to bring Christmas spirit to the sanctuary and around the church.

Pastor Ho-Soon

### PHOTO PRESENTATION

*Christmas Tree Greeting on the side entrance, and beautifully decorated sanctuary led by Jean Moulton*





## SUPERB MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

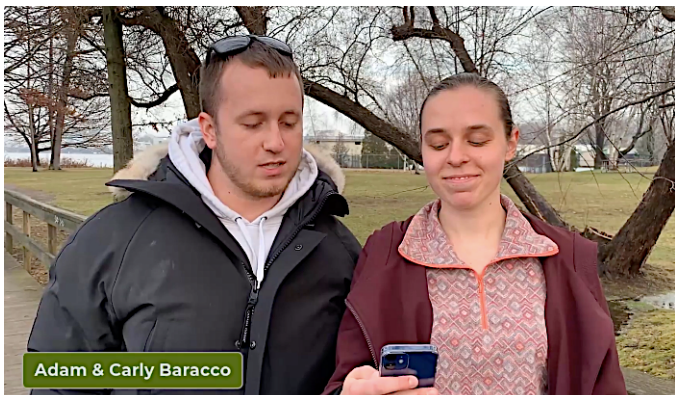
The music led by Jan Stover and accompanied by musicians Nancy Chamberlin, and Wendy and Ted Hagarty; and soloists Wendy Emmons, Elaine Triplett, Liz Phillips and Susie Goodwin, was beautiful. We are most grateful to each performer for their musical gifts and superb performance..







## TELLING THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH



Olivia & Henry Spencer



## First Birthdays

Two grandmothers, two granddaughters, and whole lot of love! The first photo is of Carol Nason's mother and first grandchild, Ellen Nason Simmons. The second is, of course, Carol Nason, with first grandchild, Isabella Simmons, daughter of Ellen. Isabella turned one on December 19th. I read on a cake at a baptism years ago these words, "Children are God's Promise of a Better Tomorrow."

Wishing you all a better tomorrow as we move into 2021.



Tyler Dumas

Photo of Wendy Hagarty on trumpet who played at the back of church was not possible, but her and Ted's contribution to the Christmas Eve Service is greatly appreciated.





## Give A Reason to Smile

On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, twelve families from within the church and the community, gathered around their computer screens for their first ever, zoom flower arrangement class with Jean Moulton. Jean created a simple arrangement for children ages 5 – 10 to put together, with adult supervision. She put the flower kits together, and led the flower class.

The smiles on the children's faces said it all! The flowers will be delivered by the children to people in the church and in the community. The focus on this class was to do something that would 'give a reason to smile' for the person who received the arrangement.

Thank you, Jean for all you did to make this a wonderful success for the children. A very big thank you also goes to Kelly Spencer who was the mastermind behind this activity. Kelly put the program together and oversaw every detail.

When the parents picked up the kits at the church they said over and over again how much they appreciated Kelly's organization and communication leading up to the activity. We look forward to offering more zoom classes for children.

Article by Carol Nason



## **An Update from the Finance Committee**

### **By Diane Hutchins, Finance Chair**

We wish our friend and colleague, Jim Lennon, all the best as he retires as Financial Secretary after volunteering on the Finance Committee for 21 years. For those of you who might not have a calculator handy: 52 weeks per year x 21 years = 1092 Sundays (+ or -)

Jim, thank you for your dedicated service to God and the Church on the Cape. When I consider the time and commitment involved, I can imagine there must have been a strong support network and sacrifice of family time over the years. For this reason, I need to sincerely thank Joan Lennon and hereby grant her a lifetime achievement award for "Best Supporting Spouse of a Church Financial Secretary".

With Jim retiring, Adrien Baracco will be taking over as the new Financial Secretary. David Smith will be filling the position of Assistant Financial Secretary, and Ruth Lovejoy will be the Assistant Treasurer. I would like to thank them all for volunteering.

As for the numbers, the finances for the Church on the Cape (COTC), have been rather dynamic. In spite of the numerous challenges, we experienced in 2020, we are not far from where we should be for the year. Through the month of November, we had quite a few expenses that typically are due in the fall, combined with an increase in the electronic communications budget.

As of November 30, 2020	
Revenue to Budget:	\$253,036
Expenditures from Budget:	\$262,058
Net	(\$9,022)

It is important to note that an additional \$8,070 was received in donations for designated income. Designated income is not considered part of the budget.

Thank you so much for those who have given so generously of your time, talent and financial resources!

### **Stewardship Update**

The Finance Committee is still waiting for more pledge card responses to be returned before we can finalize and approve a budget for 2021. As of December 28<sup>th</sup>, there were only 88 out of 182 responses received.

Total Pledge Cards Mailed for 2021	182
Number of pledges received	67
Number of responses who will give "as-able"	21
Stewardship Response Rate (88 of 182)	48%
Total pledges received for 2021	\$125,516
Comparison to 2020	\$170,380
Current Stewardship Shortfall	(\$44,864)

**If you have not done so already, please return your pledge card by January 5, 2021.**

**A timely response is greatly appreciated. It will assist the Finance Committee to estimate 2021 income to budget before our next meeting.**

## **The Church on the Cape**

### **A United Methodist Church**

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and life styles. We are young, old, and middle aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families. Above all, we are people who take risk, make mistakes, confess, repent and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus the Christ whose life, death, and resurrection are the reasons we are together. The life and hope in this community have more to do with Christ's faithfulness to us than ours to Christ.

Whether you are searching for a faith community, or just passing through; we want you to feel at home. Whoever you are, whatever your history, your scars, your gifts; you are among persons like yourself.

Join us from wherever you call home. If you like what you see here, we post our virtual, Hymn Sing, and Sunday Worship Service on our website, [www.churchonthecape.org](http://www.churchonthecape.org).

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